

REMARKS

Claims 29 and 45-77 are pending and the present amendment places the claims in condition for allowance in response to suggestions by the Examiner. Applicant thanks the Examiner for allowing claims 29, 46-57, 59-64, 67, 68 and 70-75. Claims 45, 58, 65, 66, 69, 76 and 77 are rejected on 112 second paragraph grounds and the Examiner has stated on page 3 of the office action that these claims "would also be allowed if amended to overcome" the 112 rejections. In response, applicant amends and/or cancels these latter claims to bring them in condition for allowance, without adding new matter.

Reconsideration and allowance of the remaining claims courteously is solicited.

Objection to the Specification

The Examiner argues on the top of page 2 that claim 45 lines 2-3 and the last line, contains language ("between 20 and 120 wgt" and "at least two thirds the depth of sludge" respectively) that is not supported by the present specification. In response, applicant has removed this language from claim 45.

Reconsideration and removal of this objection are requested.

The 112nd paragraph rejection

A. Claims 45 and 65

On page 2 of the office action, the Examiner rejects claims 45 and 65 on an argument that "the sludge" recited therein lacks antecedent basis. In response, applicant amends to recite "dredged material." Claims 66 and 77 depend on claim 65 and have been rejected as being indefinite for this same reason.

Reconsideration and allowance of claims 45, 65, 66 and 77 are requested.

B. Claim 76

On page 2, the Examiner argues that "the material" in claim 76 lacks antecedent basis. In response, applicant has amended this claim to recite "sludge" in place of "the material" at the four instances of "material."

Reconsideration and allowance are requested.

C. Claim 58

Claim 58 was rejected as indefinite because of improper use of "dewatered" material. In response applicant deletes this claim.

Reconsideration and allowance are requested.

D. Claim 69

The term "conventional" has been deleted from dependent claim 69 in response to the Examiner's argument that this term is indefinite. The term is not needed.

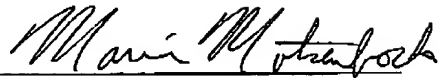
Reconsideration and allowance are requested.

CONCLUSION

The claims have been amended to place the unallowed claims in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the 112 2nd paragraph rejections are requested. If a telephonic meeting would be helpful to handle any remaining issues, the Examination is requested to contact Marvin Motsenbocker at 202-912-2195.

REMARKS

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Marvin A. Motsenbocker". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Marvin" and last name "Motsenbocker" clearly distinguishable.

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